



December 3, 2007

The Honorable Steven R. Rothman  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rothman:

While the overwhelming number of schools in this country are safe, it is a parent's worst nightmare to send a child to a school where his or her safety is in jeopardy. Moreover, when parents allow their children to attend an off-campus field trip, they expect the school to keep their child safe and keep parents informed. While public schools are currently required to have safety plans and security procedures in place for the physical campus of the school, there are no such requirements when schools take students off-campus on field trips.

On behalf of the 5.5 million parents, teachers, students and child advocates that make up the Parent Teacher Association, I am writing to convey our appreciation for your leadership in raising awareness of this oversight. Off-campus school trips comprise an integral part of the educational experience for our nation's students. We must ensure that field trips are not abandoned because of liability issues. Clear safety policies and security procedures will keep students safe as they travel on school-run trips and encourage parents to volunteer as chaperones on these vital learning experiences.

Therefore, the PTA applauds your effort in remedying this situation by introducing your bill, *Phylicia's Law*. By requiring school districts to develop and distribute written safety plans for overnight school trips, we hope schools will be able to continue to provide these invaluable experiences for students while ensuring that children are safeguarded.

If National PTA can provide you with any further information or assistance, please contact Todd Haiken, Acting Manager of Public Policy, at 202-289-6790.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jan Harp Domene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan Harp Domene  
PTA National President

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